

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

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BOARD OF EDITORS { Mr. Horace E. Smith, Chief Clerk of Weather Bureau,
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Mr. Edward B. Garriott, in charge of Review Room.

INTRODUCTION.

This REVIEW is based on reports for May, 1892, from 2,891 regular and voluntary observers. These reports are classified as follows: 160 reports from Weather Bureau stations; 47 reports from United States Army post surgeons; 1,946 monthly reports from state weather service and voluntary observers; 229 reports through the Central Pacific Railway Company; 477 marine reports through the co-operation of the Hydrographic Office, Navy Department; 32 reports from Canadian stations; marine reports through the "New York Herald Weather Service;" monthly reports from local weather services established in all states and territories, except Idaho; and international simultaneous observations. Trustworthy newspaper extracts and special reports have also been used.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEATHER FOR MAY, 1892.

From the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains cold and wet weather interfered with farming operations. Immense damage to property was caused by floods in the Mississippi River and tributaries.

TEMPERATURE.

Unusually cool weather prevailed over the interior of the country, and in the Missouri and Red River of the North Valleys, on the middle-eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and over the middle and northern plateau regions the month was the coolest May on record. The principal cool wave of the month swept over the Southern States from the 22d to 24th, causing slight damage to vegetation by frost in northern parts of the Gulf States.

PRECIPITATION.

In interior districts the monthly precipitation was generally in excess. The most marked deficiency was shown over the Gulf and south Atlantic states. In eastern New York, the lower lake region, at points in the Ohio, middle and upper Mississippi valleys, and at Spokane, Wash., Red Bluff and Los Angeles, Cal., the precipitation was the greatest ever recorded for May. At Pensacola, Fla., the precipitation was the least ever noted for May. From the 2d to the 4th a heavy snowstorm prevailed over eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska, causing considerable loss of stock on the ranges. On the 19th a severe snowstorm occurred in southern, central, and northwestern Wisconsin. On the 20th and 21st a snowstorm, with high wind, visited western and northern New England.

LOCAL STORMS.

In the central valleys the month was marked by numerous severe local storms. The tornadoes in south-central Kansas on the 27th were notably destructive to life and property. At Wellington, Kans., twelve persons were reported killed, and three lives were lost near Harper, Kans. On the 31st six persons were reported killed by tornadoes in central Texas. Tor-

nadoes were reported in Oklahoma Territory on the 2d and 12th, at Eureka, Kans., on the 13th, near Allison, Kans., and Mangum, Okla., on the 16th, near Olney, Ill., on the 28th, and at Independence, Kans., on the 30th.

FLOODS.

Destructive floods occurred along the middle and lower Mississippi River and tributaries throughout the greater part of the month. The more important Mississippi levees held firm. About 60,000 acres of cultivated land in the American Bottom, opposite Saint Louis, Mo., were submerged. Water from crevasses inundated plantations in various parts of Louisiana. The Mississippi River reached high-water mark at New Orleans, La. The Missouri River flooded low-lying parts of Kansas City, Mo., and suburbs. Great devastation by flood was reported along the Illinois River. On the 18th a flood in the Floyd Valley, Iowa, resulted in the loss of about twenty lives, and destruction of property to the estimated value of \$1,000,000. The Arkansas River reached the highest stage ever known at Fort Smith, Ark., and overflowed about 10,000 acres of cultivated land in that section. At Little Rock, Ark., the stage of water was the highest reached since 1844, and plantations above and below that place were reported under water. Destructive floods occurred along the Red River, in Texas and Louisiana. At Shreveport, La., the river reached the highest stage ever noted at that port, and large areas in Bossier parish were submerged. At the close of the month the Willamette River was over the lower docks at Portland, Oregon.

AUORAS.

The principal auroral display of the month was observed from New England to Montana and southward to Missouri and Oklahoma Territory the night of the 18-19th. In New England the display was very brilliant, and, at its height, covered nearly the entire sky, with a well-defined corona near the zenith.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE (expressed in inches and hundredths).

The distribution of mean atmospheric pressure for May, 1892, as determined from observations taken daily at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. (75th meridian time), is shown on Chart II by isobars.

In May the mean pressure is usually highest on the Oregon coast, where it is 30.05, and it is 30.00 and above in districts south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers. The normal pressure for May is lowest over the west part of the